

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page one, line 4 and ending on line 5 with the following new paragraph:

The present patent application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/325,508 filed June 3, 1999, which also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/121,214 filed February 22, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph on page three, starting on line 11 and ending on line 17 with the following new paragraph:

Another embodiment of the ~~provides~~ invention includes the step of receiving requests from a plurality of remote devices for access to the communications network. Connections between the communications network and a first group of the remote devices are established. A signal is sent to the remaining remote devices for which a connection is not established to indicate that a connection was not established. At least some of the remaining remote devices are queued for service at a later time.